

wherein said client computer [comprising] comprises:

a first transmission device transmitting₁ to said image server₁ a command to transmit the image data stored in said image server; and

a second transmission device transmitting₁ to said image server₁ display information relating to said display device, and

wherein said image server [comprising] comprises:

a data quantity reduction device reducing the data quantity of image data[,] to be transmitted in response to the image transmission command transmitted from said first transmission device, on the basis of the display information transmitted from said second transmission device, and

an image data transmission device transmitting₁ to said client computer₁ the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced by said data quantity reduction device].

2. (Amended) The image communication system according to claim 1,

wherein the display information is information relating to the maximum number of colors which can be displayed on said display device, and

wherein said data quantity reduction device includes color reduction means for reducing a number of colors of an image

represented by the image data to be transmitted [in response to the image transmission command] on the basis of the information relating to the maximum number of colors.

3. (Amended) The image communication system according to claim 1,

wherein the display information is information relating to the resolution of said display device, and

wherein said data quantity reduction device includes thinning means for thinning out the image data on the basis of the information relating to the resolution, to be transmitted in response to the image transmission command, so as to reduce the data quantity of the image data.

4. (Amended) The image communication system according to claim 1, wherein said image server further [comprising] includes:

a printer for printing an image, and

color conversion processing means for performing color conversion processing of the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced by said data quantity reduction device] on the basis of data representing characteristics of said display device.

5. (Amended) An image server used in an image communication system in which the image server and a client computer having a display device are capable of communicating with each other, wherein [said] the image server stores image data representing an image, comprising:

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a receiving device receiving a command to transmit the image data stored in said image server, and to display information relating to said display device [which are] that is transmitted from said client computer;

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a data quantity reduction device reducing the data quantity of image data to be transmitted [in response to the image data transmission command] on the basis of [the] received display information [received by said receiving device]; and

an image data transmission device transmitting, to said client computer, the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced by said data quantity reduction means].

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6. (Amended) The image server according to claim 5, wherein the display information is information relating to the maximum number of colors which can be displayed on said display device, and

wherein said data quantity reduction device includes color reduction means for reducing a number of colors of an image

represented by the image data to be transmitted [in response to the image transmission command] on the basis of the information relating to the maximum number of colors.

7. (Amended) The image server according to claim 5,
wherein the display information is information relating to the resolution of said display device, and

wherein said data quantity reduction device includes thinning means for thinning out the image data to be transmitted[in response to the image transmission command] on the basis of the information relating to the resolution.

8. (Amended) The image server according to claim 5, further comprising:

a printer for printing an image, and

color conversion processing means for performing color conversion processing of the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced by said data quantity reduction device] on the basis of data representing characteristics of said display device.

9. (Amended) A client computer having a display device used in an image communication system in which an image server storing

image data representing an image and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

a transmission device transmitting, to said image server, a command to transmit the image data stored in said image server, and to display information relating to said display device; and

a receiving device receiving the image data[, whose data quantity is] reduced on the basis of the display information in said image server[, to be transmitted in response to said image transmission command].

10. (Amended) An image server used in an image communication system in which the image server having a printer and a client computer having a display device are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

an image data reading device for reading image data representing an image;

[an input device inputting display direction data indicating whether a normal direction of display of the image represented by the image data read by said image data reading device is a longitudinal direction or a transverse direction;

a display direction conversion processing device performing display direction conversion processing of the image data read by said image data reading device on the basis of the display direction

data inputted from said input device such that the direction of display of the image represented by the image data is a normal direction;

an image data storage device storing the image data which has been subjected to the conversion processing by said display direction conversion processing device; and

an image data transmission device reading out from said image storage device image data representing an image corresponding to an image transmission command transmitted from said client computer, and transmitting the image data to said client computer]

a first color conversion device for performing first color conversion processing on the read image data in accordance with a characteristic of the printer;

a printer controller for controlling the printer so as to print an image from the first color converted image data;

a second color conversion device for performing second color conversion processing on the read image data in accordance with a characteristic of the display device; and

an image data transmission device for transmitting the second color converted image data to said client computer.

11. (Amended) In an image communication system in which an image server and a client computer having a display device are capable of communicating with each other, said image server storing image data representing an image, an image communication method comprising [the steps of]:

transmitting a command to transmit the image data stored in said image server, and to transmit display information relating to said display device from said client computer to said image server;

Q1 reducing, in said image server, the data quantity of the image data to be transmitted [in response to the image transmission command] on the basis of the display information transmitted from said client computer; and

transmitting the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced] from said image server to said client computer.

8b 007 12. (Amended) A method of transmitting image data in an image server used in an image communication system in which the image server having a printer and a client computer having a display device are capable of communicating with each other, comprising [the steps of]:

reading image data representing an image;

[accepting input of display direction data indicating whether a normal direction of display of the image represented by the read image data is a longitudinal direction or a transverse direction;

performing display direction conversion processing of the read image data read on the basis of the display direction data which has been accepted such that the direction of display of the image represented by the read image data is a normal direction;

storing the image data which has been subjected to the display direction conversion processing; and

transmitting, in response to an image transmission command transmitted from the client computer, to said client computer image data representing an image specified by the image transmission command out of the stored image data]

performing a first color conversion processing on the read image data in accordance with a characteristic of the printer;

controlling the printer so as to print an image from the first color converted image data;

performing second color conversion processing on the read image data in accordance with a characteristic of the display device; and

transmitting the second color converted image data to said client computer.

13. (Amended) An image communication system in which an image server and an image data receiver having a display device are capable of communicating with each other,

wherein said image server [comprising] comprises:

an image display data transmission device for transmitting image display data for displaying a plurality of sample images having different characteristics to said image data receiver, and

wherein said image data receiver [comprising] comprises:

an image characteristics setting device for receiving the transmitted image display data [transmitted from said image display data transmission device], for displaying the plurality of sample images on said display device on the basis of the received image display data, and for determining characteristics relating to the image selected from the displayed sample images; and

an image characteristics data transmission device for transmitting data representing the determined image characteristics [determined by said image characteristics setting device] to said image server.

14. (Amended) The image communication system according to claim 13, wherein said image display data transmission device transmits [to said image data receiver] the image display data representing the plurality of images having different tonalities to said image data receiver.

15. (Amended) The image communication system according to claim 13,

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wherein said image server [comprising] further includes an image data transmission device for transmitting [to said image data receiver] , if said image data receiver can change the characteristics of the image displayed on said display device, image data whose characteristics [has] have not been adjusted [if said image data receiver can change the characteristics of the image displayed on said display device], while transmitting, if said image data receiver cannot change the characteristics of the image displayed on said display device, image data whose characteristics has been adjusted in accordance with the image characteristics data transmitted from said image characteristics data transmission device to said image data receiver [image data whose characteristics has been adjusted in accordance with the image characteristics data transmitted from said image characteristics data transmission device if said image data receiver cannot change the characteristics of the image displayed on said display device].

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17. (Amended) An image data receiver having a display device used in an image communication system in which an image server and the image data receiver are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

an image characteristics setting device for receiving the image display data for displaying a plurality of sample images having different characteristics transmitted from said image server, for displaying the plurality of sample images on said display device on the basis of the received image display data, and for determining characteristics relating to the image selected from the displayed sample images; and

an image characteristics data transmission device transmitting data representing the determined image characteristics [determined by said image characteristics setting device] to said image server.

18. (Amended) In an image communication system in which an image server and an image data receiver having a display device are capable of communicating with each other, an image communication method comprising [the steps of]:

transmitting image display data for displaying a plurality of sample images having different characteristics from said image server to said image data receiver;

receiving[, in said image data receiver, the] said transmitted image display data [transmitted from said image server] in said image data receiver;

displaying the plurality of sample images on said display device on the basis of the received image display data;

determining characteristics relating to the image selected from the displayed sample images; and

transmitting data representing the determined image characteristics from said image data receiver to said image server.

19. (Amended) A client computer used in an image communication system in which an image server having an image output device for outputting an image and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

an image data quantity reduction device for reducing[,] the data quantity of image data to be transmitted to said image server [such], so that the data quantity of the image data to be transmitted is equal to or less than the data quantity of the image data representing the image to be outputted from said image output device; and

an image data transmission device for transmitting the reduced image data to said image server [the image data whose data quantity is reduced by said image data quantity reduction device],

wherein said image data quantity reduction device further includes:

print image area designation means for designating an image area to be printed of an image represented by image data of one frame; and

partial image data extraction means for extracting partial image area data representing the designated image area from said image data of one frame.

20. (Amended) The client computer according to claim 19, wherein said image data quantity reduction device includes at least one of resolution conversion means for converting the image data to be transmitted into image data having a resolution which is [not more than] less than or equal to the resolution of the image [which can be outputted] output from said output device, so as to reduce the quantity of the image data, and thinning means for thinning the image data such that the size thereof is equal to the size of the output image [outputted from said output device].

22. (Amended) The client computer according to claim 19, wherein said image data quantity reduction device [comprises] further includes:

compression rate determination means for determining the compression rate of the image data to be transmitted to said image

server on the basis of the speed of transmission of the image data between the image server and said client computer, and

image data compression means for compressing the image data at the determined compression rate [determined by said compression rate determination means].

23. (Amended) A client computer used in an image communication system in which an image server and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

a compression rate setting device for setting the compression rate of image data;

a calculation device for calculating information relating to time required for transmission in a case where the image data compressed at the set compression rate [set by said compression rate setting device] is transmitted to said image server; and

a display device for displaying the information relating to the calculated time [required] for transmission [calculated by said calculation device].

24. (Amended) The client computer according to claim 23, further comprising a display control device for [carrying out such] exhibiting control so that an image represented by the image data

compressed at the set compression rate [set by said compression rate setting device] is displayed on said display device.

25. (Amended) An image communication system in which an image server and a client computer are capable of communicating with each other, wherein image data and information relating to the image data are transmitted from said client computer to said image server,

wherein said image server [comprising] comprises:

an image output device for outputting an image [represented by the image data transmitted from said client computer] on the basis of the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer; and

an image information transmission device for transmitting, to said client computer, the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer, and

wherein said client computer [comprising] comprises a retrieval means for retrieving image data specified by the information relating to the image data transmitted from said image server.

26. (Amended) A client computer used in an image communication system in which an image server having a printer and

the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising:

a receiving device for receiving a part of printing template image data, which is transmitted from said image server, and which is used for printing processing in said printer; and

a synthesis device for synthesizing the received part of the printing template image data [received by said receiving device] and a part of user image data stored in the client computer.

27. (Amended) A method of transmitting image data from a client computer to an image server, [said] the client computer and [said] the image server being used in an image communication system in which [said] the image server, having an image output device for outputting an image and said client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising [the steps of]:

reducing the data quantity of image data to be transmitted to said image server [such] so that the data quantity of the image data to be transmitted is equal to or less than the data quantity of the image data representing the image to be [outputted from said image output device] output; and

transmitting the reduced image data to said image server [the image data whose data quantity is reduced]

wherein the step of reducing further includes:

designating an image area to be printed of an image represented by image data of one frame; and

extracting partial image area data representing the designated image area from said image data of one frame.

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28. (Amended) A method of displaying information in a client computer which is used in an image communication system in which an image server and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising [the steps of]:

setting the compression rate of image data;

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calculating information relating to time required for transmission in a case where the image data compressed at the compression rate is transmitted to said image server; and

displaying the calculated information [relating to the time required for] related to the transmission time.

29. (Amended) In an image communication system in which an image server and a client computer are capable of communicating with each other, an image communication method comprising [the steps of]:

transmitting image data and information relating to the image data from said client computer to said image server;

outputting, in said image server, an image [represented by the image data transmitted from said client computer] on the basis

of the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer;

transmitting the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer[,] from said image server to said client computer; and

retrieving, in said client computer, image data specified by the information relating to the image data transmitted from said image server.

30. (Amended) A method of synthesizing images in a client computer which is used in an image communication system in which an image server having a printer and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, comprising [the steps of]:

receiving a part of printing template image data, which is transmitted from said image server, and which is used for printing processing in said printer; and

synthesizing the received part of the printing template image data and a part of user image data stored in the client computer.

31. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for transmitting image data from a client computer which is used in an image communication system in which an image server having an image output device for outputting an image and the client

computer are capable of communicating with each other, [said] the program controlling the computer so as to:

reduce[,] the data quantity of image to be transmitted to said image server such that the data quantity of the image data to be transmitted is equal to or less than the data quantity of the image data representing the image to be outputted from said image output device; and

transmit the reduced image data [whose data quantity is reduced] to said image server

wherein said program further controls image data reduction processing in the computer so as to designate an image area to be printed of an image represented by image data of one frame, and extracts partial image area data representing the designated area from said image data of one frame.

32. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for displaying information in a client computer which is used in an image communication system in which an image server and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, [said] the program controlling the computer so as to:

set the compression rate of image data;

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calculate information relating to time required for transmission in a case where the image data compressed at the set compression rate is transmitted to said image server; and

display the calculated information [relating] related to the [time required for] transmission time.

33. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program used in an image communication system in which an image server and a client computer are capable of communicating with each other, [said] the program controlling the computer so as to:

transmit image data and information relating to the image data from said client computer to said image server;

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output, in said image server, an image [represented by the image data transmitted from said client computer] on the basis of the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer;

transmit, from said image server to said client computer, the information relating to the image data transmitted from said client computer[, from said image server to said client computer]; and

retrieve, in said client computer, image data specified by the information relating to the image data transmitted from said image server.

34. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for synthesizing images in a client computer which is used in an image communication system in which an image server having a printer and the client computer are capable of communicating with each other, [said] the program controlling the computer so as to:

receive a part of printing template image data, which is transmitted from said image server, and which is used for printing processing in said printer; and

synthesize the received part of the printing template image data and a part of user image data stored in the client computer.

35. (Amended) An image editing system in which an image server and a plurality of client computers are capable of communicating with one another, an image represented by image data is edited in one of said client computers, and editing information relating to the edited image is transmitted from said one client computer to said image server,

wherein execution data indicating that an image is edited or re-edited is transmitted from said one or another client computer to said image server prior to editing or re-editing the image,

wherein said image server [comprises an editing information transmission device for transmitting the editing information relating to the edited image which has been transmitted from said one client

computer to said one client computer or other client computer] further includes:

a judgment device for judging whether or not the editing or re-editing is allowed on the basis of said transmitted execution, and

an allowance data transmission device for transmitting, when said judgement device judges that the editing or re-editing of the image is allowed, allowance data to said one or another client computer which has been allowed to edit or re-edit the image, and

wherein said one or [other] another client computer [comprises

an image reediting device for reediting the edited image generated in said one client computer on the basis of the editing information relating to the edited image which has been transmitted from said image server, and

a reediting information transmission device for transmitting to said image server reediting information relating to the reedited image generated in said image reediting device] further includes a control device for performing the editing or re-editing in response to the receiving of allowance data.

36. (Amended) The image editing system according to claim 35, wherein said [reediting] re-editing information transmission device

53 transmits information relating to a portion [reedited] re-edited by said image [reediting] re-editing device.

38. (Amended) The image editing system according to claim [37]

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wherein said plurality of client computers are classified into a plurality of groups, each [comprising] group including one [or two] or more of said client computers, and

wherein said image server further [comprises] includes a transmission device for transmitting said [reediting] re-editing information transmitted from said [reediting] re-editing information transmission device to said client computer, in the group to which the one or [other] another client computer which has transmitted the [reediting] re-editing information belongs.

39. (Amended) The image editing system according to claim 38, wherein said one or [other] another client computer further [comprises] includes:

a comment entry device for entering a comment concerning said editing [information or said reediting] or re-editing information which has been transmitted from said image server, and

a comment transmission device for transmitting the entered comment to said image server [the comment entered from said comment entry device].

40. (Amended) The image editing system according to claim 35, wherein said edited image is constituted by a plurality of object images, and object image editing request data [indicating] which indicates that said object images are subjected to object image editing which is at least one of addition, alteration, and deletion, said edited image being transmitted from the one or [other] another client computer to said image server,

wherein said image server further [comprises] includes:

an object image editing judgment device for judging whether or not said object image editing is allowed on the basis of said transmitted object image editing request data [transmitted from said one or other client computer], and

an object image editing allowance data transmission device for transmitting, when said object image editing judgment device judges that said object image editing is allowed, object image editing allowance data for allowing said object image editing to the one or [other] another client computer which has been allowed to edit the object image, and

wherein said one or [other] another client computer further [comprises] includes an object image editing device for performing said object image editing in response to the receiving of said object image editing allowance data [transmitted from said image server].

41. (Amended) A client computer constituting a system in which an image server and a plurality of client computers are capable of communicating with one another, comprising:

an image editing device for editing an image [using an image represented by image data;

an editing information transmission device for transmitting to said image server editing information relating to the edited image generated in said image editing device;

an editing information receiving device for receiving the editing information transmitted from said image server;

an image reediting device for reediting the edited image on the basis of the editing information received by said editing information receiving device; and

a reediting information transmission device for transmitting to said image server reediting information relating to the reedited image generated in said image reediting device];

a receiving device for receiving data representing allowance of edition of an image transmitted from the client computer; and

a controller for controlling the image editing device so as to execute edition of an image in response to reception of the allowance data by the receiving device.

42. (Amended) An image editing [method, wherein] system in which an image server and a plurality of client computers are capable of communicating with one another, an image represented by image data is edited in one of the client computers, and editing information relating to the edited image is transmitted from the one client computer to said image server, [comprising the steps of:

editing an image using an image represented by image data in one of said client computers;

transmitting editing information relating to the edited image from said one client computer to said image server,

receiving the editing information transmitted from said one client computer in said image server;

transmitting the received editing information from said image server to said one client computer or other client computer;

reediting the edited image generated on the basis of the editing information transmitted from said image server in said one or other client computer; and

transmitting reediting information relating to the reedited image from said one or other client computer to said image server]

wherein execution data indicating that an image is edited or re-edited is transmitted from said one or from another of said plurality of client computers to said image server prior to editing or re-editing the image,

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wherein said image server judges whether or not the editing or re-editing of the image is allowed on the basis of said transmitted execution data, and transmits, when said judgment device judges that the editing or re-editing of the image is allowed, allowance data to said one or another client computer which has been allowed to edit or re-edit the image, and

wherein said one or another client computer performs the editing or re-editing in response to receiving allowance data.

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43. (Amended) The image editing [method] system according to claim 42, [further comprising transmitting] wherein information relating to a [reedited] re-edited portion is transmitted from said one or [other] another client computer to said image server.

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45. (Amended) The image editing [method] system according to claim [44] 42, [comprising the following step in said image server:]

wherein said plurality of client computers are classified into a plurality of groups, each [comprising] group including one [or two] or more of said client computers, and

wherein [transmitting] said [reediting] re-editing information is transmitted to [said] that client computer in the group to which said [one or other] client computer which has transmitted said reediting re-editing information belongs.

46. (Amended) The image editing [method] system according to claim 45, [comprising the following steps in said one or other client computer: entering] wherein a comment concerning said editing [information or said reediting] or re-editing information [which has been transmitted from said image server, and transmitting the entered comment] is transmitted to said image server.

47. (Amended) The image editing [method] system according to claim 42,

Q5 wherein said edited image is constituted by a plurality of object images, and object image editing request data [indicating] which indicates that said object images are subjected to object image editing which is at least one of addition, alteration, and deletion, said edited image being transmitted from the one or [other] another client computer to said image server, [comprising the following steps in] wherein said image server further includes:

an object image editing judgment device for judging whether or not said object image editing is allowed on the basis of said transmitted object image editing request data [transmitted from said one or other client computer], and

an object image editing allowance data transmission device for transmitting, when it is judged that said object image editing is

allowed, object image editing allowance data for allowing said object image editing to the one or [other] another client computer which has been allowed to edit the object image, and

[the following step in] wherein said one or [other] another client computer[:]
further includes an object image editing device
for performing said object image editing in response to the receiving of said object image editing allowance data [transmitted from said image server].

Q5 48. (Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a client computer constituting a system in which an image server and a plurality of client computers are capable of communicating with one another to edit an image, and controlling said client computer so as to:

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transmit editing information relating to the edited image from said client computer to said image server;

receive the editing information transmitted from said image server;

reedit the edited image generated on the basis of the received editing information; and

transmit to said image server reediting information relating to the reedited image]

receive data representing allowance of edition of an image transmitted from the client computer; and

control the image editing device so as to execute edition of an image in response to reception of the allowance data.

Please ~~add~~ the following new claims:

--49. The image server according to claim 10, further comprising a display direction conversion processing device for performing display direction conversion processing of the color converted image data so that the direction of the image represented by the image data is oriented in a known normal direction,

wherein said image data transmission device transmits the display direction converted image data to the client computer.

50. The image editing system according to claim 35, wherein said image server further includes an editing information transmission device for transmitting editing information relating to the edited image which has been transmitted from said one client computer to another client computer; and

wherein said one or another client computer further includes: